

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20

DOT-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04

SCI-06 FEA-02 /233 W

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R 311507Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9382

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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FOR US DEL LOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EFISH, DA

SUBJECT: LOS: DANISH FISHERIES MINISTER CRITICIZES MOVES
TOWARD BROADER FISHERIES LIMITS

BEGIN SUMMARY: DANISH AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
MINISTER RAISED A SMALL TEMPEST BY COMMENTS
IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW ON RECENT FISHERY DE-
VELOPMENTS. HE WARNED THAT A UNILATERAL ICELANDIC
MOVE TO 200 MILES COULD RESULT IN RETALIATION
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MAKING THE NORTH SEA AN EC LAKE AND CAUSE WIDE-

SPREAD FISHERY CONFLICTS. HE ALSO SPOKE OF HIS BELIEF THAT NO DECISION WOULD COME OUT OF THE CARACAS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND ON THE NEED FOR DANISH FISHERMEN TO SHOW THE FLAG OFF CANADIAN WATERS TO BROADEN THEIR HISTORIC FISHING CLAIMS. BOTH REBUTTALS AND SUPPORT WERE FEATURED IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER THE FOLLOWING DAY. KOFOED'S STATEMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY PERSONAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TOOK BOTH THE FONOFF AND FISHERIES MINISTRY BY SURPRISE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 29, FINANCIAL DAILY BORSEN FEATURED AN INTERVIEW ON LOS FISHERY ISSUES WITH NIELS ANKER KOFOED, WHO HEADS BOTH THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MINISTRIES, ALTHOUGH PREOCCUPIED MAINLY WITH THE FORMER. PROMPTED BY ICELANDIC CRITICISM OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE'S DECISION ON ICELAND'S 50-MILE FISHERY ZONE, KOFOED SAID THAT A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A 200 NAUTICAL MILE FISHERY LIMIT BY ICELAND COULD RESULT IN THE NORTH SEA BEING DECLARED AN EC LAKE. HE HOPED THAT THE SITUATION WOULD NOT GO SO FAR SINCE IT WOULD MEAN FISHING CONFLICTS EVERYWHERE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED FEAR THAT BRITISH AND GERMAN VESSELS EXCLUDED FROM ICELANDIC WATERS WOULD ADD TO THE ALREADY HEAVY FISHING IN THE NORTH SEA, HINTED ABOUT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SOVIETS AND POLES IN THE NORTH SEA AND BALTIC, AND SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT NORWAY AND CANADA WOULD QUICKLY FOLLOW AN ICELANDIC INITIATIVE ON 200 MILES.

2. KOFOED COMMENTED THAT THE DANES ARE BEING FORCED TO SHOW THE FLAG OFF NEWFOUNDLAND, SAYING "I MUST MAKE SURE THAT DANISH FISHERMEN HAVE SOME RIGHTS IN THE CANADIAN ZONE IF ESTABLISHED." (NOTE: KOFOED SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT DANES ARE PRESENTLY NOT FISHING IN THIS AREA; IN FACT, DANES--PRIMARILY FAEROESE--HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FISHING OFF NORTH AMERICAN COAST FOR SOME YEARS.)

3. REFERRING TO THE CARACAS MEETING, KOFOED WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE COULD BE AVOIDED. SUCH ZONES SHOULD BE UNDER REGIONAL CONTROLS, HE ADDED, AND SHOULD NOT GIVE INDIVIDUAL STATES EXCLUSIVE FISHING RIGHTS IN THE ZONE BUT SHOULD

RESPECT HISTORIC FISHING RIGHTS.

4. POINTING TO CONFLICTS AT THE CARACAS MEETING, HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY RESULTS FROM THE MEETING AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE NEXT YEAR IN VIENNA. KOFOED NOTED THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, HE FAVORED THE PRESENT THREE AND TWELVE MILES, AND THAT DANISH FISHERMEN DESIRE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL TO THE RICHES OF THE SEA. HE ADDED THAT THREE AND TWELVE MILES WERE NOT CRUCIAL BUT THAT WATERS OUTSIDE TWELVE MILES SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN TO ALL FISHERMEN THE WORLD OVER.

5. THE FOLLOWING DAY, BORSEN AGAIN FRONT-PAGED THE FISHERIES LIMIT QUESTION, QUOTING ICELAND'S DCM IN DENMARK, HELGI GISLASON, AS SAYING THAT ICELAND WILL, FOR THE TIME BEING, WAIT FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE CARACAS CONFERENCE BEFORE DECIDING ON ITS MOVE TO 200 MILES. PAPER ALSO QUOTED DANISH FISHERIES ATTACHE AT BRUSSELS, FLEMING REISLEV, AS COMMENTING THAT KOFOED'S REMARKS WERE "PURELY THEORETICAL" AND THAT, WHILE THE BRITISH HAD SPOKEN IN CARACAS ABOUT A 200-MILE ZONE IN THE NORTH SEA, NOTHING CONCRETE HAS DEVELOPED. SOREN KNUDSEN, HEAD OF DENMARK'S LARGEST FISHERIES ORGANIZATION, REPORTEDLY REMARKED THAT DANISH FISHERMEN WERE HAPPY WITH KOFOED'S STATEMENT AND THEY AGREED THAT DENMARK SHOULD USE WHATEVER MEANS IT HAD TO RETALIATE AGAINST A UNILATERAL MOVE TO 200 MILES BY ICELAND.

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6. EMBASSY COMMENT: KOFOED'S REMARKS MUST BE SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF HIS NEED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO HIS POLITICAL CONSTITUENCY BASED ON BORNHOLM ISLAND WHERE FISHING IS A PRINCIPAL ENTERPRISE. THE ISLAND'S LIVELIHOOD WOULD BE SERIOUSLY HURT BY INCREASED FISHERIES LIMITS, WITHOUT RECIPROCITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE BALTIC. DANISH NORTH SEA FISHERMEN ARE SOMEWHAT LESS CONCERNED. WHILE THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSED TO WIDER LIMITS, COMMENTS WE HEAR FROM FISHERY OFFICIALS INDICATE A REALIZATION THAT CHANGES ARE COMING AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE.

7. THE FLAG-SHOWING COMMENT IS PROBABLY RELATED

TO THE PURCHASE BY ONE OF KOFOED'S BORNHOLM
CONSTITUENTS OF TWO LARGE, SECOND-HAND ITALIAN
STERN TRAWLERS WITH WHICH HE PLANS TO SHRIMP
THIS YEAR OFF THE CANADIAN AND GREENLANDIC COASTS.
TO ILLUSTRATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF FISHERIES
POLICY EVEN WITHIN DENMARK, MOSES OLSEN, A LEAD-
ING GREENLAND POLITICIAN, TOLD US THAT AN IN-
CREASE IN NON-GREENLANDIC SHRIMP FISHING OFF
GREENLAND'S TWELVE-MILE ZONE CAUSES SERIOUS
LOCAL CONCERN AND IS AN ARGUMENT FOR EXTENSION
OF GREENLAND'S FISHERY LIMITS BEYOND TWELVE
MILES.

8. GIVEN THE CONFLICTS WITHIN DENMARK ON FISH-
ING LIMITS, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT FONOFF AND
FISHERIES MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE REACTED BOTH
TESTILY AND CAUTIOUSLY TO KOFOED'S STATEMENTS.
FONOFF OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT KOFOED'S COMMENTS
REPRESENT ONLY HIS PERSONAL VIEWS AND FISHER-
IES MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE TAKEN COMPLETELY
BY SURPRISE AND WISHED RUEFULLY THAT KOFOED
HAD NOT GIVEN THE INTERVIEW.
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